

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, amendment and reconsideration of the Office Action dated February 14, 2006, is respectfully requested by Applicant.

Summary

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. publication of Suzuki (20040043696). Claims 2 – 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Griffiths (U.S. Patent 4,703,573) and further in view off Eichelberger (U.S. Patent 4,145,748).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an electronic device with an electrode that is divided into a plurality of electrode elements. Each electrode element is connected to the detecting means. A plurality of states of operation performed by an operator are detected on the basis of outputs from the electrode elements.

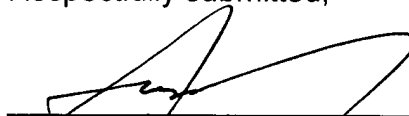
Suzuki fails to describe or suggest the arrangement of Claim 1. More specifically, Suzuki does not mention dividing the electrode into a plurality of electrode elements. Suzuki also fails to describe detecting a plurality of operation states based on the outputs from the electrode elements. Thus, Suzuki fails to fully describe the arrangement of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

Claim 1, as well as dependent Claims 2 – 36, is allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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